

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**  
 (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>RL 604 WO</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	
		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. <b>PCT/EP2004/011516</b>	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>14.10.2004</b>	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>12.12.2003</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>F16B21/09 F16B5/06</b>		
Applicant <b>A. RAYMOND &amp; CIE</b>		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>1</u> sheets, as follows:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</li> </ul>

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.  
PCT/EP2004/011516

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 
  - international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
  - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
 

the international application as originally filed/furnished  
 the description:  
 pages 1-7 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished  
 pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
 pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
 the claims:  
 nos. 4-7 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished  
 nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
16.02.2006 with letter  
 nos.\* 1-3 \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on of 14.02.2006  
 nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
 the drawings:  
 sheets 1/3-3/3 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished  
 sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
 sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
 a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 

the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_  
 the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_  
 the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_  
 the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_  
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 

the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_  
 the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_  
 the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_  
 the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_  
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.  
PCT/EP2004/011516

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 – 7	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 – 7	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 – 7	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. This report makes reference to the following documents:

D1: US 6 594 870 B1

D3: FR 2 800 833 A

2. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 Document **D1** is considered to constitute the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1 and discloses (see column 3, lines 4–26; figure 1; the references in parentheses are to that document):

- a device having the features of the preamble of claim 1, in which
- the holding element ("fastener socket 15") has a plate-like zone with a rounded inner edge ("aperture 25") whose inner diameter is smaller than the outer diameter of the flanged washers, and which enclose the edges of the flanged washers.

2.2 Consequently, the subject matter of claim 1 differs from the known disclosure of D1 in that

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PCT/EP2004/011516

Box No. V      **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

the arms

- are angled at least in sections in relation to the direct connection line between the holding element and the outer fastening zone, and
- are set on the rounded inner edge.

2.3 The subject matter of claim 1 is thus **novel** (PCT Article 33(2)).

2.4 The technical effect of the differentiating features is that of causing the arms to lie entirely between the flanged washers, thus securing them against high tensile loads.

The present invention can therefore be considered to address the **problem** of increasing the stability of the known device.

2.5 None of the international search report citations suggests the solution proposed in claim 1 for this problem. The fastening device shown in document **D3** has angled arms, but they lie entirely free (see page 2, line 29 – page 3, line 7; figures 3 and 4).

The subject matter of claim 1 thus also involves an **inventive step** (PCT Article 33(3)).

3. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-7

Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1 and thus also meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements.